

MINUTES
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission Meeting
FWP Headquarters – 1420 East 6th Avenue
Helena, MT

JUNE 9, 2011

Commission Members Present: Bob Ream, Chairman; Dan Vermillion, Vice-Chairman; Ron Moody; Shane Colton; A.T. Stafne.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Staff Present: Joe Maurier, Director, and FWP Staff.

Guests: See June 9, 2011 Commission file folder for names of who signed in.

A Work Session commenced on June 8 to discuss the Authorities and Roles of the Commission, the Biennial Regulation Setting Process, and Elk Management in the Missouri Breaks. Several members of the public attended and expressed their opinions.

A Work Session immediately followed the Commission meeting on June 9 to discuss the Fort Peck Management Plan and the Flathead Lake Management Plan.

Topics of Discussion:

1. **Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2011 Commission Meeting**
3. **Approval of Commission Expenses through May, 2011**
4. **Commission Reports**
5. **Director's Report**
6. **Milltown State Park Land Acquisition - Proposed**
7. **Parks Reservation System Update**
8. **2012 Moose, Sheep, Goat, Deer and Elk License Auction Rules – Final**
9. **License and Permit Application Dates - Informational**
10. **2011 Deer and Elk Quotas Outside Biennial Quota Ranges – Proposed**
11. **2011 Antelope Quotas Outside Biennial Quota Ranges - Proposed**
12. **2011 Lion Quotas—Final**
13. **2011 Furbearer Quotas--Proposed**
14. **2011 Bison Quotas and Season Structure – Proposed**
15. **Robb Ledford WMA Domestic Sheep Trailing - Final**
16. **Fish Creek WMA - DNRC Fire Road Restoration Project - Endorsement**
17. **Open Microphone – Public Opportunity to Address Additional FWP Issues**

1. **Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance.** Chairman Ream called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2011.**

Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to approve the May 12, 2011 minutes. Motion carried.

3. **Approval of the May Commission Expense Report.**

Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to approve the expense report as presented. Motion carried.

4. Commission Reports. Vermillion reported that the continuous rain in his district is creating a great deal of water-related concerns. He traveled to Intake to observe paddlefishing, but due to the water flowing at 80,000 cfs, only one or two fish were caught. He attempted to go to the Miles City Fish Hatchery, but roads were nearly impassable due to the rain. Ream reported that Milltown State Park is under water due to flooding conditions. It overflowed the banks where they had laid the new riprap.

Colton stated that the National Parks Service had indicated they were going to pave and refurbish the fishing access sites along the Bighorn River, closing them to fishing. That project has now been postponed due to the intervention of Senator Tester, Senator Baucus, and Steve Dougherty.

Moody reported that he had attended a meeting in Winnett regarding the community-based CM Russell Working Group. The American Prairie Foundation has developed a memo of understanding with the local neighbors relative to problem solving. Over 1,000 pronghorn antelope were killed on the railroad tracks while congregating in what they felt was a safe place to get out of the elements.

Stafne reported that his district experienced record setting snowfall this past winter. It took a long time for snow to melt and then it started raining. The majority of farmers are waiting for it to dry up enough to get into their fields. Fort Peck Dam is releasing great quantities of water resulting in problems below the dam, but if it is not released, the water will back up into tributaries, causing flooding conditions above the dam too.

5. Director's Report. Director Maurier reported that FWP is documenting infrastructure damages caused by flooding, and the Department is working with DES to hopefully recoup some of the losses. The Department is preparing for implementation of legislation passed during the session. Staff is working on arrangements for the FWP-hosted WAFWA conference in Big Sky next month. The conference theme is "large landscape conservation", and it is hoped that Ted Turner and Mr. Malone will attend the conference and speak as large private landowners.

6. Milltown State Park Land Acquisition - Proposed. Chas VanGenderen, FWP Parks Administrator, stated that the Department proposes to accept the transfer of three parcels of land, totaling 465 acres, to develop a state park at the Milltown superfund site. **Parcel A** is the former Northwestern Energy property, approximately 416 acres. As a result of the Superfund cleanup, it was acquired by the State of Montana in December of 2010 and includes the reconstructed floodplain of the Clark Fork River as well as the lower Blackfoot River. The area is managed by the State's Natural Resource Damage Program. **Parcel B**, the Milltown Bluff property, approximately 13.6 acres, is located on the south side of the Clark Fork River above the former dam site. The land was acquired by the State of Montana in February 2011 and is currently managed by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. **Parcel C** is the Jacobs property, approximately 35 acres, located to the east of Deer Creek County Road. In 2010, Five Valleys Land Trust purchased this parcel, and would donate the land to FWP for inclusion in the park. FWP would pursue fee title to the three parcels, though NRDP would retain management authority for Parcel A until the state's river restoration work is finished.

Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion that the Department proceed with the proposed transfer of the three Milltown parcels as the next phase for establishing Milltown State Park.

Mike Kustudia, Milltown State Park Manager, stated that the floodplain at the upper end of the park is 2,000 feet wide and is knee deep in water. Fortunately, the channels are still in place, and the contaminated soil has already been removed so is not washing downstream.

Pelah Hoyt, Conservation Project Manager, Five Valleys Land Trust, said these acquisitions will realize a dream - they are delighted to work with FWP on this. Missoula is excited about this project.

Action on Motion: Motion carried.

7. Parks Reservation System Update. Chas VanGenderen, FWP Parks Administrator, explained that the new campsite reservation program went on-line in March, but Memorial Day weekend was the first weekend the reservations were valid - approximately 750 reservations were made for that weekend. There were a number of challenges, and some mistakes, but all in all it is going quite well. The rain has been a benefit as it has provided the opportunity to ease into the process. The system is available online, over the telephone, and through a link on the FWP website. Reservations can be made nine months ahead. To date, 9,730 nights have been reserved by 2,950 reservations, with Tongue River Reservoir the most popular at 1,550. The majority of the public has been supportive of the new program.

8. 2012 Moose, Sheep, Goat, Deer and Elk License Auction Rules – Final. State law provides for an auction process to distribute moose, sheep and goat licenses and an auction/lottery option to distribute the mule deer and elk licenses. The Commission decides on the criteria for soliciting and selecting conservation organizations to conduct the annual

auctions/lotteries. At least ninety percent of the proceeds must be returned to FWP for conservation of the specific species, and the organization or individual retains the remaining ten percent.

Hank Worsech, FWP License Bureau Chief, stated that the Department recommends no changes to the 2011 annual auction/lottery rules for the 2012 auction, and also proposes to change the process from that of an Annual Rule to an Administrative Rule, whereby the Department would solicit interested organizations and the Commission would retain authority to choose which organization gets which license. The comment period generated one opposing comment.

Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to adopt the final 2012 auction/lottery rules for the moose, sheep, goat, mule deer and elk licenses as proposed by the Department, and directed the Department to pursue an ARM process for this rule.

Moody said these auctions are one area where FWP commercializes the resources. The money needs earmarked so it can be explained as to where it goes and what we get out of the compromise of principles.

Sue Daly, FWP Finance Division Administrator, replied that state law designates where the money goes, which is back to the management of the species.

Ream stated that the public needs to include their name and address when submitting comments. Additionally, the FWP website needs to require that information when soliciting comments.

Action on Motion: Motion carried.

9. License and Permit Application Dates – Informational. Hank Worsech, FWP License Bureau Chief, explained that the Department had been looking into changing the application deadline for all resident and nonresident antlered/brow-tined/either sex elk & deer permits from June 1 to March 15 to coincide with the current nonresident license drawing deadline, to provide drawing results earlier. There is no proposed change to the 10 percent nonresident allocation process. This proposal was brought before the Commission in December of 2010, but was placed on hold pending the outcome of proposed legislation that addressed the issuance of special elk or deer permits. HB 372 was passed with an effective date of July 1, 2011 with the reference to special elk or deer permits removed, and other bills affecting licenses and bonus points are effective March 1, 2012. An annual rule will allow the department to implement and comply with the new laws because administrative rules cannot be written until legislation is in effect.

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Dave Risley, Fish and Wildlife Division Administrator, updated the Commission on the EQC meeting held on May 24. The FAS program is transitioning to the Fish and Wildlife Division on July 1, with the highest priority being that the public sees no change in service. Flooding will change some infrastructures, but damage is being documented and FWP will reassess the situations when the water recedes.

Bruce Rich, FWP Fisheries Bureau Chief, spoke to the impacts the flood conditions are having on fisheries. Habitat will be affected by bank erosion and channel changes, and fish populations will get washed away. Emergency action is being taken to protect the infrastructure, and there will likely be several years of remediation. The long term effects are more positive in that flood waters are scouring streams and removing sediments, and channel flows will be improved. High water flows are providing fish passage to upstream waters in places where there hasn't been any, such as the lower Yellowstone.

Brad Schmitz, FWP Region 7 Supervisor, stated that the paddlefish quota has been reached, so paddlefish season will close Friday night. Paddlefish need turbid, shallow water for their nursery areas to allow the young fish to grow larger, thereby increasing their survival rates. Although recruitment conditions have been good for the last two years, there has not been much recruitment. Biologists are looking into what is impacting recruitment and have discovered that one reason could be aerial spraying for mosquitoes. Flooding of prairie river ecosystems is almost always positive as it reallocates nutrient resources and restructures morphology of systems, which provides nursery habitat for longer periods of time. This year the paddlefish will have a longer runway with more area to spawn, and will have more nursery habitat available.

**10. 2011 Deer and Elk Quotas Outside Biennial Quota Ranges – Proposed.**

**11. 2011 Antelope Quotas Outside Biennial Quota Ranges – Proposed.**

Quentin Kujala, FWP Wildlife Bureau, presented the proposals.

2011 Mule Deer Quotas Outside Biennial Ranges - Proposed

Proposed changes from 2010 mule deer quotas and biennial ranges are as follows. All other deer quotas will be unchanged from 2010 levels or adjusted within current biennial ranges.

Region 4

410-00: decrease antlerless MD B licenses from 25 to 5; adjust range from 25 – 600 to 5 – 600  
417-00: decrease antlerless MD B licenses from 50 to 5; adjust range from 25 – 600 to 5 – 600  
419-00: decrease antlerless MD B licenses from 50 to 5; adjust range from 25 – 400 to 5 – 400  
426-00: decrease antlerless MD B licenses from 50 to 5; adjust range from 25 – 700 to 5 – 700

Region 7

007-13: decrease antlerless MD B licenses from unlimited to 2500 (license sold first come first served until exhausted)

2011 Elk Quotas Outside Biennial Ranges - Proposed

Proposed changes from 2010 elk quotas and biennial ranges are as follows. All other elk quotas will be unchanged from 2010 levels or adjusted within current biennial ranges.

Region 2

210-80: increase antlerless B licenses from 300 to 600; adjust range from 5 – 400 to 5 – 600  
211-80: increase antlerless B licenses from 150 to 300; adjust range from 5 – 200 to 5 – 300

Region 3

314-80: decrease antlerless B licenses from 1000 to 200; adjust range from 1000 – 2000 to 200 – 2000

2011 Antelope Quotas Outside Biennial Ranges - Proposed

Proposed changes from 2010 antelope quotas and biennial ranges are as follows. All other antelope quotas will be unchanged from 2010 levels or adjusted within current biennial ranges.

Region 6

630-00: decrease ES licenses from 150 to 10; adjust range from 50 – 500 to 10 – 500  
630-10: decrease D/F licenses from 10 to 5; adjust range from 100 – 200 to 5 – 200  
670-00: decrease ES licenses from 350 to 25; adjust range from 200 – 500 to 25 – 500  
670-10: decrease D/F licenses from 25 to 10; adjust range from 15 – 200 to 10 – 200

Region 7

700-00: decrease ES licenses from 11,000 to 9000; adjust range from 11,000 – 15,000 to 9000 – 15,000  
700-10: decrease D/F licenses from 2000 to 500; adjust range from 1600 – 11,000 to 500 – 11,000

*Action: Colton moved and it was seconded to approve the quota ranges as recommended with the understanding there may be further changes based on regional comments.*

Rod Bullis questioned the changes in HD211, to which Mike Thompson replied it reflects a mix of several hunting units.

Mary Ellen Schnurr, MOGA, said the regulations are limiting harvest by people, not predators, on vulnerable populations. Over the course of a year, the four-legged predators take more than humans do. She asked FWP and the Commission to consider issuing more permits than normal for antelope in regions other than 6 and 7 where there is a tremendous decline in population, if surveys indicate populations in other regions are thriving, so hunters can hunt somewhere in the state.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

**12. 2011 Lion Quotas—Final.** Quentin Kujala, FWP Wildlife Bureau, presented the proposed changes from 2010 lion quotas and subquotas. All other lion quotas/subquotas are proposed to be unchanged from 2010 levels. Quotas apply to “any legal lion” unless otherwise noted and as influenced by female subquotas.

Region 1

HD 100: increase special licenses from 20 to 25; increase female subquota from 8 to 10

Region 2

Missoula Special Management Area: increase male quota from 10 to 13, increase female quota from 8 to 12

HD 204/260/261: increase special licenses from 15 to 20; increase female subquota from 2 to 3

HD 240: increase special licenses from 15 to 20; increase female subquota from 2 to 3

HD 250: increase special licenses from 15 to 20; increase female subquota from 2 to 3

HD 270: increase special licenses from 15 to 20; increase female subquota from 2 to 3

Region 3

HD 310/311/360/361/362: decrease total quota from 6 to 5; maintain female subquota at 1

HD 320/333: decrease total quota from 4 to 2; maintain no female subquota

Region 4

HD 422/423/424/425/442: increase male quota from 7 to 9; increase female quota from 2 to 3

Region 7

**Increase total quota from 25 to 30; maintain no female subquota**

*Action: Colton moved and Vermillion seconded the motion to adopt the final 2011 lion quotas/subquotas as presented by FWP.*

Steve Kamps, MT Bowhunters Association, supports the increases in the Bitterroot.

Mike Thompson, FWP Wildlife Biologist, reported that the Department captured and radio-collared 44 cow elk in the Bitterroot last February. They have had one confirmed lion mortality, one wolf mortality, and one undetermined mortality.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

**13. 2011 Furbearer Quotas—Proposed.** Quentin Kujala, FWP Wildlife Bureau, presented the proposed changes from 2010 furbearer quotas. All other furbearer quotas proposed to be unchanged from 2010 levels.

Trapping District 3

Increase bobcat quota from 200 to 250

Trapping District 5

Decrease bobcat quota from 400 to 300

Trapping District 7

Decrease bobcat quota from 800 to 600

*Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the proposed 2011 furbearer quotas as recommended by FWP.*

Mary Ellen Schnurr, MOGA, supports the increase in bobcat quotas in Region 3, but opposes the decrease in Region 5.

Bert Wustner, Montana Trappers Association, said they work well with Region 2 and Mike Thompson, and would like to see an increased quota.

Ray Mule', FWP Region 5 Wildlife Biologist, stated they use established criteria when looking at bobcat trends for setting quotas. They look at the number of females in harvest, trapper efforts, and rabbit routes. They saw a downward trend last year, and indicators are even stronger this year that the population is on a downward trajectory.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

**14. 2011 Bison Quotas and Season Structure – Proposed.** Quentin Kujala, FWP Wildlife Bureau, explained that FWP proposes no changes from the 2010 bison quotas and dates, that archery equipment is added as a legal means of take (per 2011 legislative action), and the Eagle Creek portion of HD385 north of Gardiner is to be expanded to the north and west.

*Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the proposed 2011 bison license quotas with included archery and expanded hunt area in HD385 as presented by FWP.*

John Harrison, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, said they have no problem with the regulations other than that they continue to oppose a quota being placed on tribes. They will follow up with written comments.

Steve Kamps, MT Bowhunters Association, support the added archery opportunity portion of the proposal.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

**15. Robb Ledford WMA Domestic Sheep Trailing – Final.** Ken McDonald, FWP Wildlife Bureau Chief, explained that area ranchers have trailed domestic sheep across the Robb Ledford Wildlife Management Area to reach their summer and winter grazing pastures for over forty years. Sheep are trailed to Forest Service land for summer pasture, and returned home in the fall. MCA 87-1-303 provides the Commission the authority to authorize domestic livestock trailing across wildlife management areas, and can adopt rules governing the timing and route to be used, however that authority does not

extend to requiring a fee for trailing, or prohibiting or interfering with trailing activities. Comments from some entities stated they do not want livestock on the WMA, however that is not an option, according to the statute.

FWP seeks approval from the Commission to authorize domestic sheep trailing, and to adopt proposed rules governing the timing and route for trailing on the Robb Ledford WMA. The rule includes a timeline of ten years, clarification of notice and use dates, and removing the bighorn sheep kill permit from these trailing rules.

*Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to adopt the final commission rules to authorize domestic sheep trailing specifically on the Robb Ledford WMA as presented by FWP. (As above).*

Jim Brown, MT Woolgrowers Association, supports the modifications made by FWP.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

**16. Fish Creek WMA - DNRC Fire Road Restoration Project – Endorsement.** Ken McDonald, FWP Wildlife Bureau Chief, explained that FWP proposes to coordinate with DNRC to remove some existing roads and exchange and abandon road easements as part of the Fish Creek WMA Road Restoration Project. The roads proposed for removal run through wet areas and are at risk for failure or sediment delivery to streams that contribute flow to Fish Creek and the South Fork of Fish Creek. Fish Creek and its tributaries supports bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout, and the Wig Creek drainage provides important elk winter range for elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, and moose.

Road restoration would result in a net decrease of 1,266 feet of road within the Fish Creek WMA, with no costs to FWP. DNRC is asking for 1.2 miles of road access easements across existing roads on FWP lands, and recommending FWP abandon 0.2 miles of road easements on DNRC lands in exchange for 0.3 miles of road easement elsewhere. DNRC would take the lead on the Environmental Assessment, with FWP providing support.

*Action: Vermillion moved and Colton seconded the motion to endorse FWP's proposal to pursue the opportunity to decrease the road prism on the Fish Creek WMA and exchange road easements with DNRC.*

Rod Bullis said he supports this proposal.

*Action on Motion: Motion carried.*

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Ken McDonald, FWP Wildlife Bureau Chief, asked for discussion on the development of a Missouri Breaks elk archery working group. He had made a tentative recommendation for the group to consist of eight to twelve members consisting of rifle hunters, bow hunters, outfitters, landowners, representatives from FWP, and an FWP Commissioner. He suggested the members not be the same folks who served on the first group.

Vermillion suggested soliciting people interested in forming a working group, and added that the Commission needs time to decide how to proceed.

Ream asked that Vice-Chairman Vermillion and Director Maurier work on the plan, as it needs to move ahead soon.

Maurier stated that the Commission does not have to move on this - the Department can convene an ad hoc working group and then the Commission can decide. He said there must be working group to discuss issues – FWP will move forward one way or another. The Commission can take what comes from that, or not.

Moody said it might be best to have an ad hoc working group, but he proposed asking PLPW to engage in this as it is already an existing collaborative group. Their next meeting is June 25, after which a new council will be appointed. He feels the Department should pull it together, not the Commission, if beginning from the ground up.

Maurier said there has been discussions of whether PLPW continues or not, and this might be asking the existing members of the committee to agree to something the new members do not want to do.

Ream said PLPW could look at this for the long-term, and the new working group could provide input for this year. Or perhaps develop a local working group for the long-term. He wants Commission involvement.

Maurier said he is continually questioned about the 22 unlimited districts and why they exist - maybe they are unnecessary. Some folks say the Breaks should not be permitted. Those are topics for the working group to discuss.

Colton said that at the same time the archery elk working group is developing information, several other working groups will also be conferring. The Commission would be reluctant to state that whatever product is developed by this working group will override anything else that is proposed. The Commission needs to be involved in setting parameters. There is a need to talk about it and decide what to do. The Department can develop this group, but then the Commission won't feel as vested in the product.

Maurier stated that if nothing is done, and the Department goes into the next legislative session to fight the same battles, he is not doing his job. It needs discussed. He has no preconceived ideas about what is right, wrong, or indifferent, but there are concerns about potential impacts. "If we miss this next season setting process, we will be accused of sandbagging".

Colton said the Commission is supportive about forming a group for ideas, especially for outside the Breaks, to alleviate some of the tension, but not under the premise that the Commission is not interested or capable of considering public input. The Commission did previously listen to the alternatives. He suggested directing the Department to solicit names for a working group that the Commission could then review. He recommended including a Commissioner, but not a legislator, to keep politics out of it.

Vermillion said legislators can participate without being on the working group - they can still share their views.

*Action: Ream moved and Stafne seconded the motion to "endorse the formation of an elk working group as an ad hoc group, and that Vice-Chairman Vermillion and Director Maurier design the group and move ahead with it, and be the representative for the Commission in this process. The timeline is short and we need to get moving, and that would assure that the Commission is participating in the process".*

Vermillion said he appreciates the confidence in his participation, however he does not have the time to commit it to it. He said he would be happy to help out though.

Ream said it was not his intent to have a Commission member as part of the working group, but on the front end.

*Action on Motion: Vermillion offered a friendly amendment to keep the PLPW as an option. Motion carried.*

## **17. Open Microphone.**

Ream said he has received a lot of calls over the last couple of years about abuse of disabled hunter permits and hunting from vehicles. A month ago he got a call from a group in Missoula who had already been working on this issue. Ream asked the group to work with the FWP Enforcement Bureau and with Mack Long, Region 2 Supervisor, to develop ideas to put into practice. After visiting with Enforcement, he found that this are a lot of abuses statewide. Doctors are passing out disabled permits readily. He invited George Hirschenberger, a member of the group, to speak on the issue.

George Hirschenberger, Missoula, spoke on behalf of individuals with significant disabilities. They take issue that permits are given to people to hunt from vehicles when they really should not. FWP reports that 8,265 new PFTVs have been issued in the last nine years. One apparent reason for the issuance of the large number of Permits to Hunt from Vehicles is because the criteria to obtain disabled permits is so inclusive that it would be hard to disqualify *any* applicant. The group would like to schedule time to discuss this situation with the Commission.

Jim Kropp, FWP Enforcement Bureau Chief, said they had met with this working group to explain the process of Commission action as well as to discuss legislation regarding abuse of permits. The permits have increased by 1,000 per year for the last two years. There is a lot of interest in antlerless elk hunting in Regions 1, 2 and 3, similar to youth hunters. There is definitely abuse. Several "disabled" folks have been spotted hunting by themselves, and state law says they must have a companion. Wardens send them home to get another person when they come across them. This working group is well organized and they have defined the problems well. Kropp said they encouraged them to bring their recommendations forward for the 2012 regulations as it's too late for this year - the regulations are already set. There are things that can be addressed, as well as proposing legislation. The ARM rules are straight forward, however they are mostly definitions so

there is not much that can be changed in them. Legislation put this in place to begin with. The working group would like to attend a work session to define their concerns and recommendations.

Ream agreed to include this issue at an upcoming work session.

Glenn Hockett, Gallatin Wildlife Association, talked about brucellosis and a comment period by APHIS. He wants FWP to clarify that APHIS' role is to manage livestock.

Tom Madden said he is a bow hunter and is confused about the meetings being held in eastern Montana regarding archery and elk. I161 was passed, and then the legislative session was inundated by a number of bills designed to go around the I161 permit applications. Outfitting and taking animals through outfitting has no management value. Most of the 23 districts are over objective, and the elk management plan says elk that reside on private land shall not be counted in objective counts - elk on private land should not be counted if there is no public access.

Mike Geary, Lewis & Clark Expeditions, and Brandon Boedecker, ProOutfitters, said the Smith River outfitters are in a crisis situation. Everyone is facing water levels they are unfamiliar with. When the biennial rule was passed, it stipulated the outfitters had to select their float dates in February, and now they are watching their businesses go under because they can't take advantage of their float permits due to high, fast water. Customers have paid with the expectation of a float and now the outfitters will have to return their money and postpone their trip for another year. Geary and Boedecker have lost a half million dollars already, and the Parks Division loses revenue too. They want a chance to invite folks back later in the summer. Not all launches are reserved by the public, and this year several will not be used. He asked if it would be possible to reschedule their trips; if the Commission would allow them to utilize some dates in July. They are not asking to eliminate a private party's launch or add additional launches, just to allow them to launch on those days that are not filled.

Chas VanGenderen, Parks Administrator, stated that he has his staff reviewing this request in order to make an informed decision. Often, changing one thing affects something else. They do not want to hurt commerce or the folks who want to float. They will review the rules and attempt to resolve this matter.

Maurier questioned the need for public comment when nobody is negatively affected by rescheduling floats.

Moody stated it's important to not underestimate the need for public comment. Although he is sympathetic to the outfitters, he is also sympathetic to the private parties already on the river and whether or not they welcome additional groups of floaters.

Colton stated that when the rules were negotiated, everyone made concessions. It was for commercially allocated use when the rule was developed, but it is important to also remain flexible.

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Action: Colton moved and it was seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Bob Ream, Chairman

Joe Maurier, Director